

# **STONEYBROOK DRIVE / CAPITOL VIEW AVENUE PROPOSED SIDEWALK**

Capital Improvement Project No. 0506747

Public Hearing Date: February 19, 2015

COB First Floor Auditorium

Testimony of:

Bruce E. Johnston, Chief

Division of Transportation Engineering

Department of Transportation

## **GREETING:**

Good afternoon Mr. Compton, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Bruce Johnston and I am Chief of the Division of Transportation Engineering for the Department of Transportation (DOT). The purpose for this afternoon's public hearing is to present to you a proposal for the construction of a sidewalk that will provide safer pedestrian travel along Stoneybrook Drive and Capitol View Avenue. The project is located in the Kensington Planning Area within the Thirteenth Election District of Montgomery County, Maryland.

The proposal is to construct a five foot wide pervious concrete sidewalk with associated roadside grading and safety treatments. The sidewalk will be constructed on:

- The west side of Stoneybrook Drive from 10100 Stoneybrook Drive to Capitol View Avenue; and
- The west side of Capitol View Avenue from Stoneybrook Drive to Lee Street

## **PROJECT ELEMENTS**

For your convenience, we have provided several displays that aid in the visual description of this project.

**Display A:** is a project vicinity map showing the location for the proposed sidewalk relative to nearby pedestrian attractions, such as public transportation, churches and the existing network of sidewalks. The proposed sidewalk is shown in red. The total length of sidewalk construction is approximately 1,000 linear feet.

**Display B:** is two typical sections of the proposed sidewalk along Stoneybrook Drive. It shows the proposed curb and gutter, the proposed pervious sidewalk and the various grading options that will be utilized behind the proposed sidewalk. Stoneybrook Drive has a variable width public right-of-way and the existing roadway width is approximately 20 feet wide. There is sufficient public right-of-way along the residential properties on Stoneybrook Drive to facilitate sidewalk construction. However, temporary easements to allow for driveway transitions will be required. DOT will have to obtain the necessary right-of-way on Maryland-National Capitol Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) property prior to constructing the proposed sidewalk adjacent to their property.

**Display C:** is two typical sections of the proposed sidewalks along Capitol View Avenue. It shows the proposed curb and gutter, the proposed pervious sidewalk and the various grading options that will be utilized behind the proposed sidewalk. Capitol View Avenue has approximately 30 feet of public right-of-way at this location and the existing roadway width is approximately 20 feet wide. There is approximately 10 to 12 feet of available right-of-way dedicated for public use along the west side of Capitol View Avenue. Either permanent easements or right-of-way purchase will be required for the construction of the proposed sidewalk and associated features.

## **PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

The Department of Transportation evaluates requests for pedestrian facilities based on their ability to display a public use as well as their ability to enhance public safety. A sidewalk on Stoneybrook

Drive and Capitol View Avenue will create a connecting link to existing sidewalks, and enable safer access for pedestrians to nearby public facilities and public transportation. Capitol View Avenue has virtually no shoulder for pedestrians to walk on, and is very dangerous along this portion of the roadway.

A portion of the proposed sidewalk project is located within the Capitol View Park Historic District. DOT coordinated with the Maryland Historic Trust and M-NCPPC's Historic Preservation Office concerning impacts to that area. Project plans were provided to both organizations for review and approval. The removal of eleven (11) trees varying in size and caliber is anticipated on property owned by M-NCPPC. DOT is coordinating with M-NCPPC to create a tree plan for the removal and replanting of new trees.

In addition, a portion of the proposed project located on Capitol View Avenue is along MD 192. Therefore project plans were also submitted to Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA) for comments and approval.

### **COST AND ASSESSMENTS**

The estimated cost for this entire project is \$427,000. This includes project design, construction, inspection and administrative costs. Funding will be provided under the County's Annual Sidewalk Program, CIP Project No. 0506747.

There are no properties which are considered to be specially benefited by the proposed improvement. Therefore, no properties are expected to be assessed.

## **EXHIBITS**

Several exhibits are incorporated into the public record for your information and consideration. They are:

1. Project Description Form
2. Project Location Map, Cost Estimate, and Construction Impacts
3. Copies of newspaper publications advertising this public hearing
4. Correspondence from Ms. Beth Cole, Maryland Historical Trust; and draft correspondence from Mr. Steven Foster, MSHA regarding approval for the proposed sidewalk construction
5. Correspondence opposing the proposed sidewalk
6. Correspondence supporting the proposed sidewalk

Project related data and files have been available for examination in the offices of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Edison Park Office Building, 100 Edison Park Drive, Gaithersburg, Maryland. The files will continue to be available to the public until the record for this Public Hearing is officially closed. These files are available for review by contacting the Annual Sidewalk Program, at 240-777-7270. If the Stoneybrook Drive /Capitol View Avenue sidewalk project is approved, DOT will utilize a work order contract currently in place with the Division of Transportation Engineering. We anticipate construction in spring 2015. The construction is expected to take approximately two to three months to complete.

Here with me this afternoon is Richard Earp, Manager of the Annual Sidewalk Program, Dan Sheridan from the Division of Transportation Engineering, Rob Elder with the Annual Sidewalk Program and Mark Bodmann, Consultant from Wallace Montgomery and Associates. We will be available after the hearing to answer any questions regarding the construction aspect of this project.

Thank you Mr. Compton, I now turn the hearing back to you.